

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for trading odd-lots of a security in an
2 electronic market for trading securities, comprises
3 determining whether an odd-lot exposure limit has been
4 exceeded for a market participant; and
5 routing a received odd-lot order for execution or
6 delivery to a market participant whose odd-lot exposure limit has
7 not been exceeded and which is sufficient to satisfy execution of
8 the order.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 determining whether an interval delay between
3 executions of odd-lots by a specified market maker has been
4 exceeded before routing a subsequently received odd-lot order for
5 execution to the specified market maker.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 decrementing the odd-lot exposure limit for the market
3 participant against which the received odd-lot order was executed
4 or delivered upon execution or delivery of the received order.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic market
2 maintains a displayable quote size for the market maker for the
3 security traded in the market.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the displayable quote
2 size for the market maker in the security is not decremented in
3 response to the market maker satisfying the odd-lot order.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the odd allow order
2 becomes executable when the price of the odd-lot order is at the

3 best price in the market.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the odd-lot exposure
2 limit is specified for the security.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the odd-lot execution
2 manager is a separate mechanism for processing and executing
3 orders distinct from normal units of trading.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the odd-lot execution
2 manager establishes an odd-lot order routing parameter of a
3 predetermined number of orders per firm.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein to determine the next
2 available market maker, the process retrieves the next market
3 maker and determines whether the next market maker has a
4 remaining odd-lot exposure limit that can satisfy the order.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 suspending processing of odd-lot orders for the
3 security if the process determines that all exposure limits for
4 all market makers have been exceeded.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the process remains
2 suspended until a market maker refreshes its odd-lot exposure
3 limit.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein if the exposure is not
2 exceeded then, when the odd-lot order becomes executable, the
3 odd-lot order will execute against the market maker.

1 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 decrementing the exposure limit for the market maker,
3 upon execution of the order and placing the market maker at the
4 bottom of a queue.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the process executes an
2 odd-lot order against a market maker if the market maker has
3 sufficient exposure limit to fill the odd-lot order.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein for an odd-lot that is
2 part of a mixed lot having a round lot portion and the odd-lot
3 portion, the round-lot portion is executed, using a separate
4 mechanism from the mechanism that executes the odd-lot portion.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the odd-lot portion is
2 at the round-lot price against the next market maker in rotation
3 even if the round-lot price is no longer the best price in the
4 market.

1 18. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 aggregating a number of odd lot executions for a
3 particular security to produce an aggregate round lot execution
4 comprised of odd-lot executions; and
5 decrementing an Quote/Order size upon execution of the
6 aggregate round lot execution, when the number of odd lots
7 executed equals a round lot.

1 19. An electronic market for trading securities, comprises:
2 an order execution/routing manager that executes non-
3 directed orders against quoting market participant's
4 quotes/orders based on a priority;
5 a process to determine whether an order is a mixed
6 order or an odd lot order;

7 an odd-lot execution process that executes the odd-lot
8 portion of the mixed order or the odd-lot order, comprising:
9 a process to determine whether an odd-lot exposure
10 limit has been exceeded for a market participant; and
11 a process to route a received odd-lot order for
12 execution or delivery to a market participant whose odd-lot
13 exposure limit has not been exceeded and which is sufficient to
14 satisfy execution of the order.

1 20. The electronic market of claim 19 further comprising:
2 a process to determine whether an interval delay
3 between executions of odd-lots by a specified market maker has
4 been exceeded before routing a subsequently received odd-lot
5 order for execution to the specified market maker.

1 21. The electronic market of claim 19 further comprising
2 a process to decrement the odd-lot exposure limit for
3 the market participant against which the received odd-lot order
4 was executed or delivered upon execution or delivery of the
5 received order.

1 22. The electronic market of claim 19 further comprising:
2 a quote manager process to maintain a displayable quote
3 size for the market maker for the security traded in the market.

1 23. The electronic market of claim 22 wherein the
2 displayable quote size for the market maker in the security is
3 not decremented in response to the market maker satisfying the
4 odd-lot order.

1 24. The electronic market of claim 19, further comprising:
2 a process to suspend processing of odd-lot orders for

3 the security if the process to determine whether an odd-lot
4 exposure has been exceeds determines that all exposure limits for
5 all market makers have been exceeded.

1 25. The electronic market of claim 24 wherein the process
2 remains suspended until a market maker refreshes its odd-lot
3 exposure limit.

1 26. A computer program product residing on a computer
2 readable medium for trading securities in an electronic market,
3 comprises instructions for causing a computer to:

4 determine whether a received order is a mixed order or
5 an odd lot order;

6 retrieve an odd-lot exposure limit for a next quoting
7 market participant and determining whether the odd-lot exposure
8 limit has been exceeded for a market participant; and

9 route a received odd-lot order for execution or
10 delivery to a market participant whose odd-lot exposure limit has
11 not been exceeded and which is sufficient to satisfy execution of
12 the order.